

## MASSACHUSETTS RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS

Frank's love-grass (Eragrostis frankii Meyer.)

### Description

Frank's love-grass is an annual with repeatedly branched, erect culms, 1-3 dm high. The narrow blades are 5-13 cm long and 1-3 mm wide. The tiny, spikelets are ovate and typically 3-5 flowered. The flowering season is August-September.

### Habitat

This species prefers sandy riverbanks and sandbars. In Massachusetts it has been found only along the Housatonic and Connecticut Rivers.

### Range

This grass is distributed from Southern New Hampshire to Minnesota, south to Florida, Louisiana, and Oklahoma.

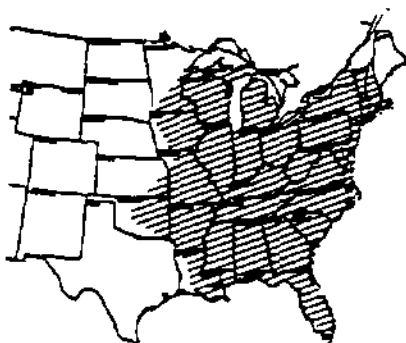
### Population Status

Frank's love-grass is presently listed as a species of Special Concern in Massachusetts. Five current (1978 to present) occurrences have been verified, and two additional historical occurrences are reported.

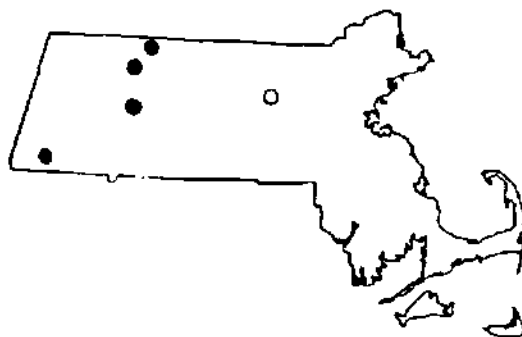
### Similar Species

Nine other species of Eragrostis are recorded from Massachusetts, the following even from the same habitat as E. frankii: E. hypnoides, E. pestinia, E. pilosa, E. cilianensis. From all of them E. frankii can be told by the combination of erect plants, long-elliptic inflorescence usually 1/2 the height of the plant, tiny spikelets with only 3-5 flowers/fruits, and second glume as long as lowest lemma.

Britton, E.L. and N.A. Brown. An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada. Dover Publications, Inc. 1970 reprint of 1913 ed.



Distribution of Frank's love-grass



● Verified since 1978  
○ Reported prior to 1978

Distribution in Massachusetts by Town